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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Fish Farming Development
LAO/78/015

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	April 1979
Starting date of project activities:	June 1979 (Planned)
Planned completion date:	March 1982
To be executed by:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Government implementing agency:	Department of Livestock and Fisheries (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Irrigation).
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$577 000
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. The Lao People's Democratic Republic is a land-locked country and its main sources of fish are from the Mekong and Nam Ngum rivers. While development of the Mekong river basin is expected to increase agricultural production, the adverse effects on upstream fisheries production is reported to be significant, particularly on the livelihood of artisanal fishermen, who produce about 10,000 tons out of the total estimated annual fish production of 30,000 tons for the whole country. Dam and reservoir construction is expected to decrease production in the riverine fishery and inundated zones by about 22,000 tons.

2. To counter this drop in production, as well as to encourage greater fish consumption by the rural population, efforts are under way to increase fish farming in newly created water surface areas such as reservoirs, village ponds and irrigation schemes. At present these efforts are thwarted by the inadequate supply of fish seed and the lack of trained manpower.

*In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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II. Objectives and activities

3. The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) rehabilitate, expand and improve five existing fish-seed farms in Pakse, Savannakhet, Luang Prabang, Xieng Khouang and Houa Phan; (b) improve production of quality fish seed for distribution to farmers; (c) demonstrate integrated fish/crop/livestock production systems to farmers; and (d) train aquaculture technicians in improved techniques of fish-seed and food-fish production.

III. Inputs

4. Under the assistance now approved, UNDP will provide, through the Executing Agency for: the services of a project co-ordinator, consultants in specialized fields such as extension and training, aquaculture engineering, and others; a study tour in agro-aquaculture development in the Asian region, as well as group training; and laboratory, hatchery and training equipment.

5. To carry out the activities for which assistance is approved, the Government will provide: professional and administrative support personnel; office buildings, furniture and supplies.

IV. Financial data

6. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

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Personnel	231 700
Training	47 000
Equipment	279 300
Miscellaneous	19 000
	577 000

7. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of inputs provided directly by the Government to the project, is $249,200 in kind.

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